

DETAILED ACTION

Reasons for Allowance

1. Claims 6 and 13-16 (*renumbered as 1 – 5 respectively*) are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the present invention is directed to an "Image forming apparatus having reduced power consumption mode".

The independent claim identifies the uniquely distinct feature "a second control device configured to output to said first control device a command for resuming from the halt state, in a case where there is any change between a latest status detected by said detecting device while the image forming apparatus is in the energy saving mode and the status detected earlier before the image forming apparatus shifts to the energy-saving mode, in the absence of an image forming request,

wherein said first control device transmits the latest status to the server apparatus, after resuming from the halt state responding to the command output by said second control device, and thereafter shifts back to the halt state, without the image forming apparatus shifting to the standby mode".

Yamada teaches a printing system for carrying out energy conservation operation. A network device can substitute a printer during sleep status to response for the status request. However, it fails to teach the apparatus wherein a second control device configured to output to said first control device a command for resuming from the halt state, in a case where there is any change between a latest status detected by said detecting device while the image forming apparatus is in the energy saving mode and the status detected earlier before the image forming apparatus shifts to the energy-

saving mode, in the absence of an image forming request, wherein said first control device transmits the latest status to the server apparatus, after resuming from the halt state responding to the command output by said second control device, and thereafter shifts back to the halt state, without the image forming apparatus shifting to the standby mode.

Kizawa et al. teaches a system wherein network clients can inquiry printer status while it is in energy saver mode. However, it fails to teach wherein a second control device configured to output to said first control device a command for resuming from the halt state, in a case where there is any change between a latest status detected by said detecting device while the image forming apparatus is in the energy saving mode and the status detected earlier before the image forming apparatus shifts to the energy-saving mode, in the absence of an image forming request, wherein said first control device transmits the latest status to the server apparatus, after resuming from the halt state responding to the command output by said second control device, and thereafter shifts back to the halt state, without the image forming apparatus shifting to the standby mode.

The prior arts of record fail to teach or render obvious, alone or in combination, a second control device configured to output to said first control device a command for resuming from the halt state, in a case where there is any change between a latest status detected by said detecting device while the image forming apparatus is in the energy saving mode and the status detected earlier before the image forming apparatus shifts to the energy-saving mode, in the absence of an image forming request, wherein

said first control device transmits the latest status to the server apparatus, after resuming from the halt state responding to the command output by said second control device, and thereafter shifts back to the halt state, without the image forming apparatus shifting to the standby mode, in combination with all other limitations of claim 6.

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to QIAN YANG whose telephone number is (571)270-7239. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Benny Tieu can be reached on 5712727490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/QIAN YANG/

/Benny Q Tieu/

Art Unit: 2625

Examiner, Art Unit 2625

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625